

Application Number: 10/697,213
Response to Final Office Action of October 19, 2005

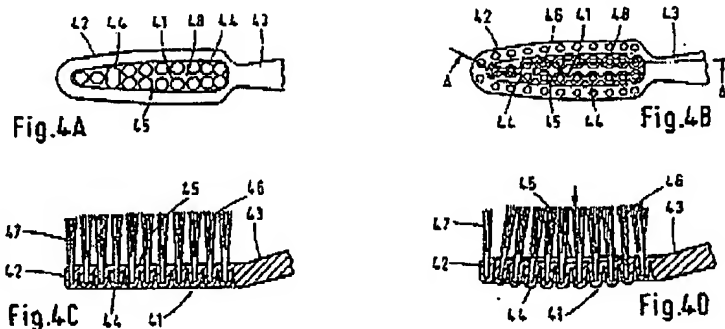
REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on October 19, 2005 and declared Final. Claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-38, 45, 47-53, 55-57, 59-61, 64-66 and 75-87 are pending.

Claims 81 and 85-87 are objected to for informalities that have been rectified by procedural amendments provided herein.

Claims 45 and 79-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Urbush (U.S. Patent 3,316,576) in view of Halm (U.S. Patent 5,651,158). Claims 47-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Urbush (U.S. Patent 3,316,576) in view of Halm (U.S. Patent 5,651,158) and further in view of Halm (U.S. Patent 6,178,582). Claims 45, 77 and 79-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Halfiger et al. (U.S. Patent 6,802,097) in view of Halm (U.S. Patent 5,651,158), while claims 47-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Halfiger et al. (U.S. Patent 6,802,097) in view of Halm (U.S. Patent 5,651,158) and further in view of Halm (U.S. Patent 6,178,582). Claims 85-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Urbush (U.S. Patent 3,316,576) in view of Halm (U.S. Patent 5,651,158) and further in view of Zimmer (U.S. Patent 6,463,618).

Applicant respectfully traverses such rejections. Claim 45 requires, among other things, a discontinuity in the head opposite at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements to allow for movement of the at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements relative to the head. The Examiner asserts that Halm '158 shows a discontinuity in the head at portions 44 or 45:



Applicant respectfully disagrees. A discontinuity is commonly defined as a "break or a gap" (see *dictionary.com*). This is illustrated in the present application by a break in the head

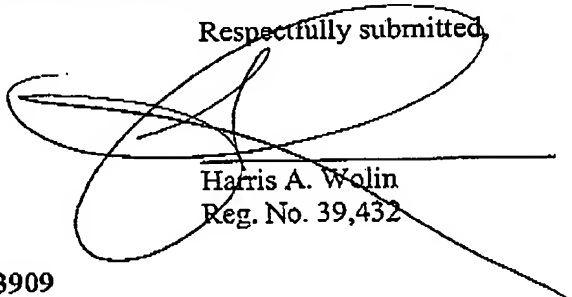
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surface 1415 as shown in Figure 14, for example. This is also specifically set forth in Applicant's claim 79. Applicant respectfully submits that Halm '158 discloses a continuous head portion, and in particular a continuous head surface, opposite at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements to allow for movement of the at least one of said plurality of third cleaning elements relative to the head. This is abundantly evident from Figures 4C or 4D of Halm '158. The same reasoning applies to claims 85-87. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 03-2455. Any overpayment may be credited to Deposit Account No. 03-2455.

Respectfully submitted,



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